

EVERYONE HAS AN OPINION

7/8/16

Before any discovery or invention can be confirmed, it is necessary that scientific methods of testing and duplicating can bring about the claimed result. If a theory is correct, it will be reproduced with continuous and consistent results forthcoming. When it comes to matters of God and salvation, there is a simple and effective formula that works every time. If we simply repeat what Jesus said and what the apostles did, we too can get the same results. Today, there are more opinions around than ever, but there is only one formula that God still backs with signs following. The formula is: Repentance, water baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit.

Christian salvation is not built on blind faith... there is a formula that gets consistent results. MAR 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall **speak with new tongues**; This is the evidence that Jesus said would follow true believers. Peter confirmed these words through both the experience and evidence that followed the gospel pattern. **ACT 2:4** And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. The apostles were consistent in preaching and explaining this formula, because it worked in every nation for all people.

Paul put an emphasis on the fact that salvation came with power and signs... not just 'faith'. 1THE 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in **word only**, but **also in power**, and in the Holy Ghost, and in **much assurance** (full confidence... not wishful thinking); as ye **know** what manner of men we were among you for your sake. All the true followers of Christ had an awareness of what Paul was talking about.

The apostles never let political correctness or religious philosophy corrupt God's formula. ROM 1:16 For I am **not ashamed** of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power** of God unto salvation to **every one that believeth**; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. There are always pressures and pride working against truth.

1COR 4:19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up (powerless opinions), **but the power**. **20** For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in **power**. The evidence of the working of the spirit was the measure of the church... Those who were part of the church were expected to be functional in spiritual necessities. This was Paul's expectation for all the churches, even today.

Despite the ministry of signs and wonders, some feared, some doubted and some mocked what was happening. JOH 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for **no man can** do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. This is a very obvious and intelligent conclusion. Many religious people were too afraid to make a stand for Christ.

LUK 11:14 And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered. **15** But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. Some blasphemed claiming the work of the Spirit was satanic... not of God.

ACT 2:13 Others **mocking** said, These men are full of new wine. Some couldn't handle the obvious truth, so they mocked tongues. It seems that there are many mockers even today when it comes to this Godly evidence.

Speaking in tongues is also a sign which condemns the critics. 1COR 14:22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, **but to them that believe not**: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. Tongues has many purposes, one of which is a clear sign of God's presence... this serves to counteract any powerless opinions and doctrines relating to true Christian faith. Even today, speaking in tongues is a stumbling block for many who are driven by ego or pride, rather than the Spirit.

Consider this natural observation... Thomas Edison experimented with over a thousand different materials (mainly filaments) and combinations to try and improve the light globe. In the end he knew many combinations that would not work... as a result he also knew the exact formula that definitely would always work. How did he know? By the evidence before him, not by someone's opinion. Likewise, true faith offers real evidence too.

Paul also promoted a singular viewpoint... EPH 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **5** One Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. There is only one formula that works, all others are opiated counterfeits.

JOH 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the **sheepfold**, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. Jesus said exactly the same thing, only one working formula.

Everyone has an opinion in one way or another. MAR 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and **confirming** the word with **signs following**. Amen. But only those who practice the truth are backed with signs following. When choosing between scriptural evidence and scriptural theories... evidence is always the right choice. Life or death? ... you choose!!